



HR1278

LRB098 22723 GRL 61660 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the administration and  
4 staff of the Citizen Advocacy Center in Elmhurst on the  
5 occasion of the organization's 20th anniversary; and

6           WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center is an award-winning,  
7 non-profit, non-partisan free community legal organization;  
8 the Center was founded in 1993 by Therese Amato, who served as  
9 the Center's first executive director for 8 years and currently  
10 serves as Board President; and

11           WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center seeks to build  
12 democracy for the 21st century by strengthening the citizenry's  
13 capacities, resources, and institutions for self-governance;  
14 to do so, the Center seeks to increase democratic protocols at  
15 every level of government and develop the voice of the public  
16 through efforts that start at the local level and become  
17 State-wide initiatives to address anti-democratic barriers  
18 rooted in State law; and

19           WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center operates through the  
20 use of community lawyers who protect the public's assets and  
21 promote meaningful participation in the democratic process; as  
22 an institution made of community lawyers, the Center engages in

1 a multi-faceted approach to building democracy through  
2 community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy,  
3 civic education, and litigation to make government more  
4 accountable, accessible, and transparent; and

5 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center makes itself open for  
6 the public to obtain free civic resource materials, ask  
7 questions of the Center's community lawyers on matters of  
8 public concern, engage in civic discussion, learn about local  
9 issues, attend training workshops, and develop skills for  
10 participating in civic affairs; and

11 WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center is committed to making  
12 government more accountable to the people by developing and  
13 empowering the voice of citizens; promoting individual and  
14 community efforts to resolve contemporary societal problems  
15 involving the health, safety, and general well-being of the  
16 communities of the western and far western suburbs of Chicago;  
17 furthering the public knowledge and understanding of  
18 democratic tools and how they can be employed for societal  
19 problem solving; stimulating citizen awareness of and  
20 involvement in the community; helping citizens to act on issues  
21 of public significance; litigating on behalf of select citizen  
22 causes to sustain access to justice; and monitoring local  
23 government to insure accountability and to deter officials from  
24 acting contrary to the general interest of the community; and

1           WHEREAS, The Citizen Advocacy Center engages local  
2 communities through numerous public initiatives, including the  
3 Civic Empowerment Zone, the Center's youth civic education  
4 program; the Center's community lawyers have worked with  
5 journalists on Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act,  
6 and First Amendment issues; the Center has also launched a  
7 Midwest Open Government Project, a comprehensive study of the  
8 Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts in Illinois,  
9 Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, among many other  
10 initiatives; and

11           WHEREAS, The administration and staff of the Citizen  
12 Advocacy Center serve as models of hard work, integrity, and  
13 dedication for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore,  
14 be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we congratulate the administration and staff of the Citizen  
18 Advocacy Center on the occasion of the organization's 20th  
19 anniversary and wish them continued success and happiness in  
20 the future; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
22 presented to the Citizen Advocacy Center as a symbol of our

1 esteem and respect.